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Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

SECRET THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED. CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 26 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 23-24 OCTOBER 1972

SUBJECT PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVINCE
CHIEFS CONCERNING PREPARATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE; PLANS
TO IMPLEMENT THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN TAY NINH AND BINH
DUONG PROVINCES

ACQ VIETNAM, BIEN HOA (25 OCTOBER 1972) [REDACTED]

TO WHITE HOUSE

SITUATION ROOM: NO DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT TO DR. HENRY KISSINGER

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1. ON 24 OCTOBER 1972 TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL LE VAN T H I E N CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF HIS SENIOR CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICERS TO RELAY INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN T H I E U DURING A MEETING OF ALL PROVINCE CHIEFS HELD IN SAIGON ON 23 OCTOBER. PRESIDENT THIEU HAD MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. A CEASE-FIRE IS IMMINENT AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) HAVE CONTROL OF AS MANY PEOPLE AND OF AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE. THE CEASE-FIRE WILL BE MONITORED BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WHO WILL BE LOOKING FOR AND WILL BE IMPRESSED BY OVERT MANIFESTATIONS OF CONTROL OF PEOPLE

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AND TERRITORY, EITHER BY THE GVN OR BY THE COMMUNISTS. THE GVN MUST HAVE CONTROL OF AS MANY CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES AS POSSIBLE. TO THIS END, ALL CITIZENS LIVING IN GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS WILL DISPLAY GVN FLAGS ON THEIR HOMES AND SHOPS IMMEDIATELY. (FIELD COMMENT: GVN FLAGS WERE BEING DISPLAYED IN SEVERAL HAMLETS IN AND AROUND TAY NINH CITY BY LATE AFTERNOON OF 24 OCTOBER.)

B. THE POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY SERVICES WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME NEUTRALIZING VIET CONG (VC) LEGAL CADRES AND SYMPATHIZERS AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE, SHORT OF RESORTING TO ASSASSINATION. THEREFORE, THE POLICE SERVICES MUST ARREST ALL IDENTIFIED VC LEGAL CADRES NOW, AND "THIS DOES NOT MEAN TOMORROW, BUT NOW, WITHIN THE HOUR." THE ARRESTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE 30 OCTOBER. OTHERWISE, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

2. THE SPECIAL BRANCH IN TAY NINH PROVINCE HAS COMPILED CONSIDERABLE AND POSSIBLY SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ARREST AND CONVICT SEVERAL CAO DAI FORMER FIELD GRADE OFFICERS AND RELIGIOUS DIGNITARIES WHO ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH VC CADRES AND WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO SUBVERT CAO DAI FOLLOWERS TO SUPPORT THE VC. THE

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SPECIAL BRANCH HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF TO ARREST THESE CAO DAI SUSPECTS, BUT HAS BEEN HESITANT TO ACT BECAUSE IT MIGHT ALIENATE THE CAO DAI POPULACE OF TAY NINH PROVINCE, WHICH COMPRISES APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. THE SPECIAL BRANCH IS NOW PROCEEDING WITH PLANS TO GO THROUGH WITH ARRESTS.

3. ON 24 OCTOBER, COLONEL NGUYEN VAN C U A, BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF, ISSUED AN ORDER TO ASSEMBLED GVN OFFICIALS THAT ALL HOMES IN GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS OF BINH DUONG MUST DISPLAY A GVN FLAG NO LATER THAN 26 OCTOBER. EACH HOUSE MUST HAVE A FLAG 20-BY-30 CENTIMETERS PAINTED ON THE FRONT AND ALSO MUST FLY AN 80-BY-120 CENTIMETER CLOTH FLAG FROM A PROMINENT PLACE ON THE HOUSE. THE ASSEMBLED OFFICIALS WERE TOLD THAT THIS ORDER MUST BE ENFORCED, BUT NO PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WERE DISCUSSED. IN ADDITION, EACH GVN OFFICE MUST IMMEDIATELY FLY A 2-BY-3 METER GVN FLAG, AND ALL GVN PERSONNEL MUST MAKE A 60-BY-90 CENTIMETER FLAG AND CARRY IT WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES BY 30 OCTOBER. NO SPECIFIC ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR THIS ORDER WAS

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4. THE BINH DUONG POLICE WERE ORDERED TO WATCH ALL SHOPS AND ARREST ANYONE PURCHASING BLUE, YELLOW AND RED CLOTH IN QUANTITY. SINCE THIS COMBINATION WOULD INDICATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (NLF) FLAGS, NO FURTHER EVIDENCE FOR ARREST WILL BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY (AMBASSADOR BUNKER, DEPUTY AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE, MINISTER COUNSELOR POLITICAL ONLY) MACV (GENERAL WEYAND, MAJOR GENERAL GODDING ONLY) AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) PARIS (AMBASSADOR PORTER AND MR. ISHAM ONLY).

CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652. EXEMPTION CATEGORY

5B (2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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